

1345.4 - SA Stats, Feb 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 23/02/2010

Summary

Contents

CONTENTS



Feature Articles

NEW this month - The new Australian Statistical Geography Standard

Provides information about the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) which will replace the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) in 2011.



Demography

Includes: **Estimated resident population, Components of population change**

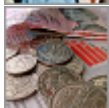
South Australia's population increased by 19,400 during the year ended 30 June 2009.



Labour Force

Includes: **Contents, Employed persons, Unemployment, Participation rate**

Trend unemployment rate for South Australia falls below 5%.



Incomes

Includes: **Average weekly earnings**

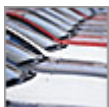
In the year ended August 2009 average weekly full time earnings in South Australia grew by 5.1% compared to 5.4% nationally.



State Accounts

Includes: **State accounts, Household final consumption expenditure (HFCE)**

In trend terms, South Australia has strongest growth in State Final Demand in the year ending September quarter 2009.



Consumption

Includes: **Retail trade, New motor vehicle sales**

South Australian retail turnover falls 3.7% in December 2009.



Investment

Includes: **Private new capital expenditure, Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure**

Exploration expenditure on Uranium accounts for more than half of all mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia in the September quarter 2009.



Construction

Includes: **Building approvals, Construction work done**

Dwelling unit approvals in South Australia rise for the fifth consecutive month.



Price Indexes

Includes: **Contents, Consumer price index, Wage price index, House price index**

House prices in Adelaide grow at a slower rate than all other capitals.



Housing Finance

Includes: **Housing finance commitments**

Average home loan size for first home buyers in South Australia is 12% higher than for non-first home buyers.



International Merchandise Trade

Includes: **Exports and Imports**

Wine accounts for 16% of South Australian exports in December 2009.



Water

Includes: **Rainfall, Reservoir levels**

Adelaide's water storage capacity at 68% as Glenelg to Adelaide pipeline is turned on.

In this issue

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	Release Date
March 2010	30 March 2010
April 2010	27 April 2010
May 2010	25 May 2010
June 2010	29 June 2010
July 2010	27 July 2010

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH

Topics which have been updated with new data in this month's issue of **SA Stats** include: Construction; Consumption; Housing Finance; International Merchandise Trade; Labour Force; Price Indexes; and Water.

This month's **SA Stats** includes an article which provides some background about the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). In 2011 the ABS will replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new ASGS and the new classification will be used for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The current ASGC regions such as Census Collection Districts (CCDs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Statistical Divisions (SDs) will disappear to be replaced by the new Statistical Areas Levels 1 to 4.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or James Inglis on Adelaide (08) 8237 7405, or email sa.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Feature Articles



FEATURE ARTICLES

2010

Feb 2010	The new Australian Statistical Geography Standard
Jan 2010	Houses in South Australia: The cost of building a dream

2009

Dec 2009	International Students in South Australia
Nov 2009	Perceptions of Crime and Safety in South Australia
Oct 2009	Who's Not in the Labour Force?
Sep 2009	One parent families with dependent children in South Australia
Aug 2009	Heating and Cooling
Jul 2009	What are South Australians Studying?
Jun 2009	Water Efficiency in South Australia's Vineyards
May 2009	Journey to Work in the City of Adelaide
Apr 2009	Housing Finance - First Home Buyers and Other Borrowers
Feb 2009	Recent Increases in South Australia's Fertility
Jan 2009	South Australian Household Final Consumption Expenditure

2008

Dec 2008	Energy Consumption in South Australia
Nov 2008	Adelaide's Population Turnover
Oct 2008	Contributors to Adelaide's Price Rises
Sep 2008	<u>Adelaide's Suburbs of Advantage and Disadvantage</u>
Aug 2008	South Australia's Agriculture Industry
July 2008	<u>New Dwelling Approvals in South Australia</u>
May 2008	<u>Literacy of South Australians</u>
April 2008	<u>South Australia's Migrant Population</u>
	<u>South Australia's Ageing Population and the Labour Force</u>
Feb 2008	<u>South Australia's Mining Industry</u>
	<u>Water Supply in South Australia</u>
Jan 2008	<u>Labour Force Underutilisation and the Underemployed in South Australia</u>
	<u>Water Use in Agriculture - A South Australian Perspective</u>

2007

Nov 2007	<u>Sports Attendance in South Australia</u>
	<u>Recorded Crime - Victims, South Australia, 2006</u>
Oct 2007	<u>Attendance at Cultural Venues and Events by South Australians</u>
Aug 2007	<u>Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities - South Australia, 2006</u>
Jul 2007	<u>South Australia's big picture: Census highlights the changes in South Australian society</u>
	<u>Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation Activities - South Australia</u>
May 2007	<u>Health of South Australians - Body Mass</u>
	<u>Household Use of the Internet in South Australia</u>
Apr 2007	<u>Employment in the Retail Trade Industry in South Australia</u>
	<u>River Murray - South Australia</u>
Mar 2007	<u>Household Waste Management in South Australia</u>
Feb 2007	<u>Births - South Australia</u>
Jan 2007	<u>Gross Domestic Product and Gross State Product</u>

2006

Dec 2006	<u>Rainfall in South Australia, South Australian Reservoirs, Water Consumption</u>
Nov 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health related actions</u>
Oct 2006	<u>National Regional Profile - New Release, New Features</u>
Sep 2006	<u>Fuel Production and Consumption, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use Change and Forestry</u>
Aug 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health Risk Behaviours</u>
	<u>The South Australian Grape Industry</u>
Jul 2006	<u>Use of IT By Australian Businesses</u>
	<u>Household use of the Internet in South Australia</u>
May 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health Status</u>

Apr 2006	<u>International Trade in Services</u>
	<u>International Students in South Australia</u>
Feb 2006	<u>Labour Force and Other Characteristics of Migrants in South Australia</u>
Jan 2006	<u>Survey of work in selected Culture & Leisure Activities</u>
2005	
Nov 2005	<u>Household Income in South Australia</u>
	<u>Household Expenditure in South Australia</u>
Oct 2005	<u>SA Business and Innovation</u>
	<u>Recent History of Population change in South Australia, 1993-94 to 2003-04</u>
Aug 2005	<u>Average Weekly Earnings</u>
	<u>Transition from School</u>

Demography



DEMOGRAPHY

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,622,700 at 30 June 2009, an increase of about 19,400 persons (1.2%) since 30 June 2008. Nationally, the ERP was 21,874,900 at 30 June 2009, an increase of about 443,100 persons (2.1%) since 30 June 2008.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Preliminary data

	Population at end June quarter 2009 '000	Change over previous year '000	Change over previous year %
New South Wales	7 099.7	115.5	1.7
Victoria	5 427.7	113.9	2.1
Queensland	4 406.8	112.9	2.6
South Australia	1 622.7	19.4	1.2
Western Australia	2 236.9	65.7	3.0
Tasmania	502.6	5.1	1.0
Northern Territory	224.8	5.0	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	351.2	5.6	1.6
Australia(a)	21 874.9	443.1	2.1

(a) Includes Other Territories comprising Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).

In 2007-08, the South Australian Statistical Division (SD) with the largest percentage increase in ERP was Outer Adelaide (2.0%) followed by Adelaide (1.1%).

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION^(a), By Statistical Division, South Australia

2007

2008

	Population at 30 June '000	Change over previous year %	Population at 30 June '000	Change over previous year %
Adelaide	1 159.1	1.2	1 172.1	1.1
Outer Adelaide	131.4	2.1	134.1	2.0
Yorke and Lower North	45.9	1.0	46.4	1.0
Murray Lands	69.8	0.5	70.1	0.4
South East	64.9	0.6	65.4	0.8
Eyre	35.0	0.5	35.2	0.5
Northern	79.6	0.7	80.1	0.6
South Australia	1 585.8	1.1	1 603.4	1.1

(a) Estimates for 2007 are revised to align with new 2007 state and territory totals and estimates for 2008 are preliminary.

Source: Regional Population Growth, Australia 2007-08 (cat. no. 3218.0).

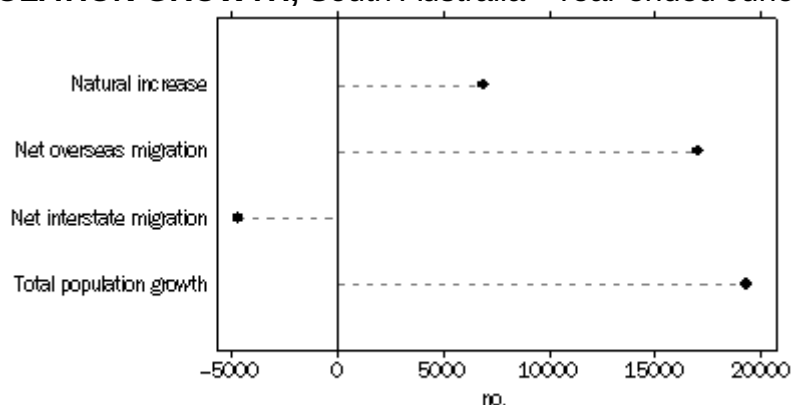
[Map of South Australia's Statistical Divisions\(PDF 2.44MB\)](#)

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

For the year ended 30 June 2009, South Australia recorded a natural increase (i.e. the net of births and deaths) of 6,954 persons. Net overseas migration provided a gain of 17,073 persons in the same period while net interstate migration realised a loss of 4,676 persons.

For the year ended 30 June 2009, Australia recorded a natural increase in population of 157,792 persons; net overseas migration resulted in a gain of 285,347 people.

POPULATION GROWTH, South Australia - Year ended June 2009



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

Labour Force



LABOUR FORCE

CONTENTS

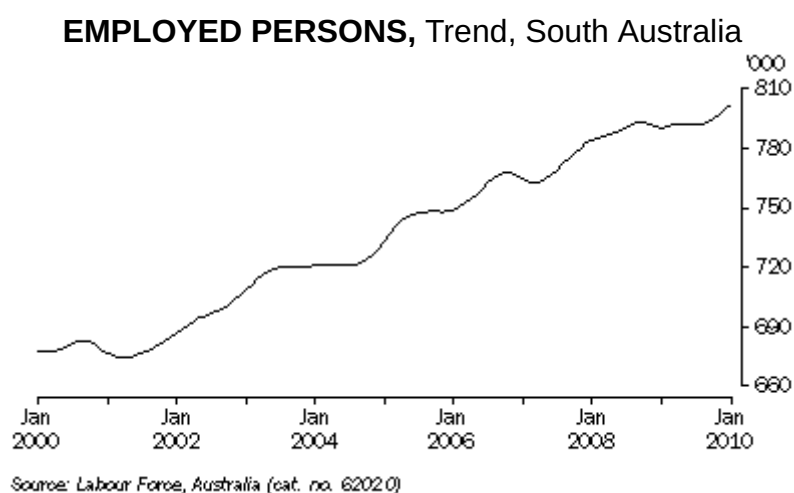
Employed persons

Unemployment

Participation rate

EMPLOYED PERSONS

In trend terms, the total number of persons employed in South Australia in January 2010 (802,400) was 1.5% higher than the estimate for January 2009 (790,400) with most of the increase occurring in the last five months. The total number of persons employed in Australia in January 2010 was 10,936,200, an increase of 1.3% on the number employed in January 2009 (10,794,600).

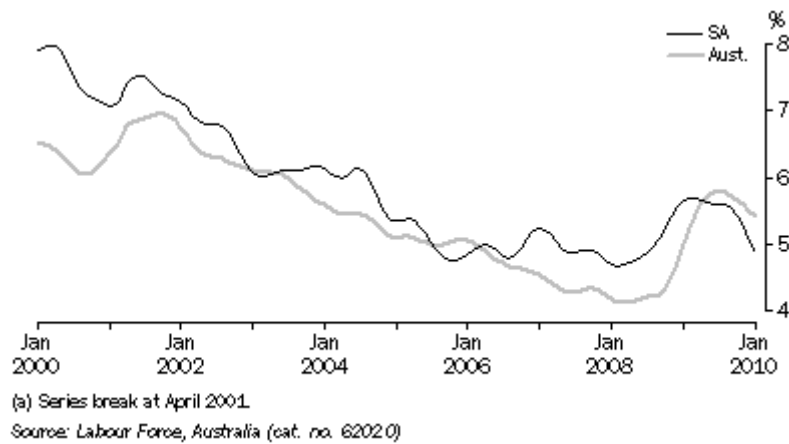


The number of males employed full-time in South Australia in January 2010 was 352,500 (in trend terms); a 0.6% increase from the previous month (350,500). Looking at the composition of all male employees, those working full-time accounted for 80.6% of the male workforce, down from 84.5% in January 2009. The number of females employed full-time has increased slightly over the last two months to be 180,600 in January 2010. However, this estimate is 2.7% below the peak recorded in May 2009 (185,600). At that time full-time female employees accounted for 49.9% of the female workforce. In January 2010, this proportion was 49.4%.

UNEMPLOYMENT

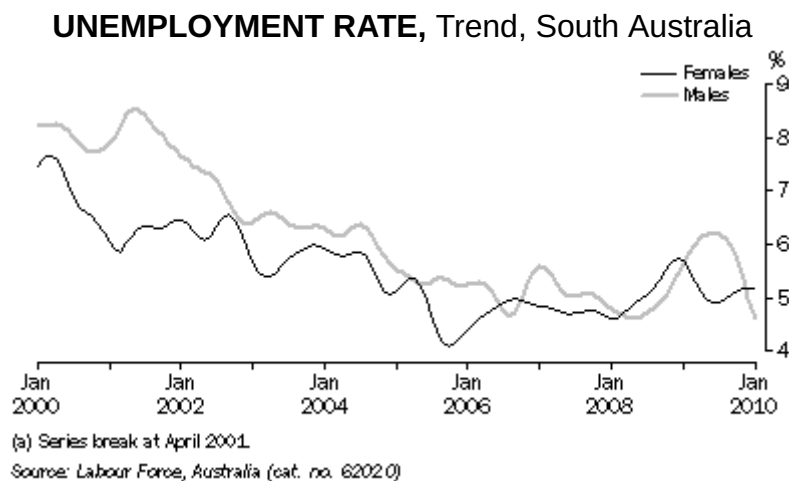
The trend estimate unemployment rate for South Australia fell to 4.9% in January 2010; the lowest level since July 2008. Australian unemployment fell marginally to 5.4% for the same period. South Australia's rate has been lower than the national rate since May 2009.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, Trend



Having peaked at 6.2% in the middle of 2009, the trend unemployment rate for males in South Australia has fallen by 1.6 percentage points to be 4.6% in January 2010. For the second month running, the unemployment estimate for South Australian males is lower than that for females. Following a period of sharp decline in the first half of 2009, where the estimate fell from 5.7% to 4.9%, the trend unemployment rate for South Australian females increased until November 2009. Since that time the rate has held steady at 5.2%.

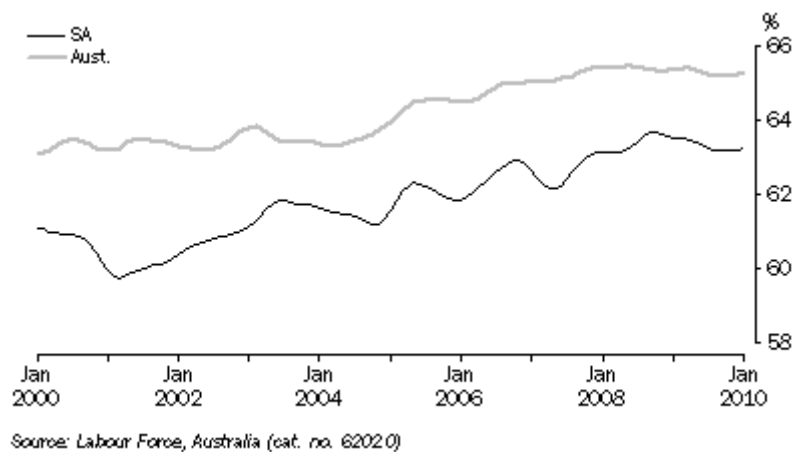
Nationally the trend unemployment rate for both males and females was 5.4% in January 2010.



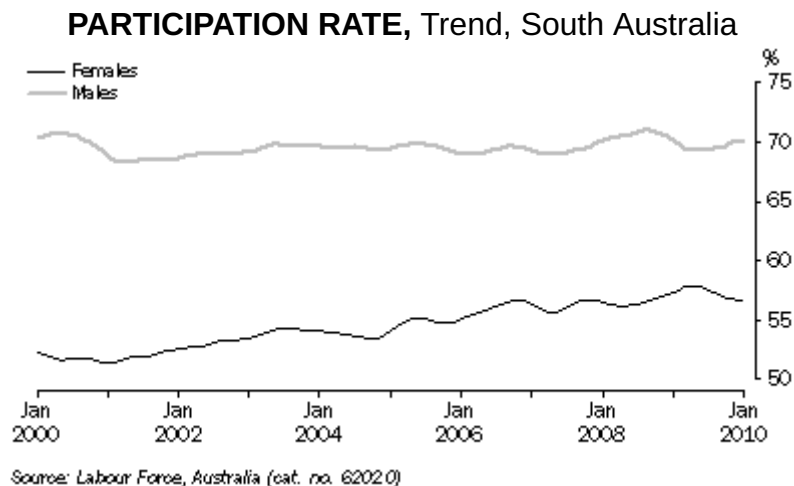
PARTICIPATION RATE

The trend estimate of the participation rate for South Australia has shown little movement over the last six months and was 63.2% in January 2010. Australia's trend participation rate has been relatively flat over the same period and was 65.3% in January 2010.

PARTICIPATION RATE, Trend



In South Australia, the participation rate for males rose for the sixth consecutive month to be 70.2% in January 2010. The Australian participation rate for males remained at 72.2%. In contrast to the movement in the male series, the participation rate for South Australian females has fallen for the eighth consecutive month. From a peak of 57.9% in April and May 2009, the estimate has fallen to 56.6% in January 2010. The Australian female participation rate remained steady at 58.5% in January 2010.



Incomes



INCOMES

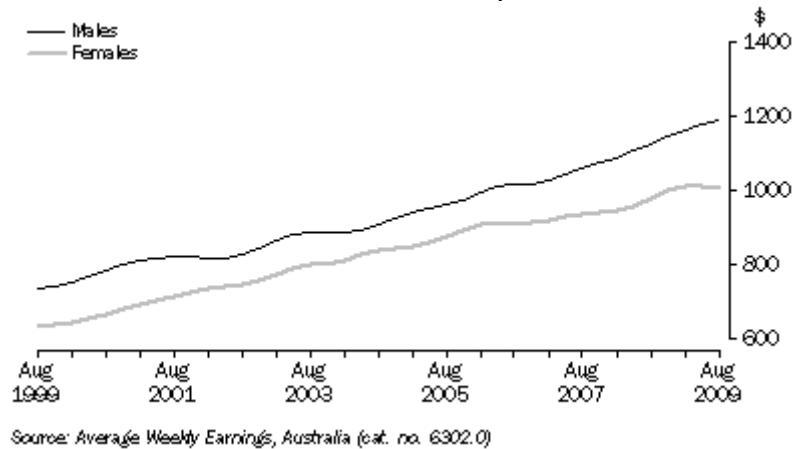
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 5.1% to \$1,126.10 in the 12 months to August 2009. Nationally, the trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings increased 5.4% (up to \$1,201.50).

In the 12 months to August 2009, average weekly full-time earnings in South Australia for

males increased by 5.8% to \$1,192.30. Nationally, male average weekly full-time earnings increased 5.9% to \$1,284.10. Female average weekly full-time earnings in South Australia increased by 2.9% to \$1,010.10 in the 12 months to August 2009, much lower than the national increase of 4.5% to \$1,063.40.

FULL-TIME ORDINARY EARNINGS, South Australia: Trend



For information on the wage price index, please refer to the '[Price Indexes](#)' topic.

State Accounts



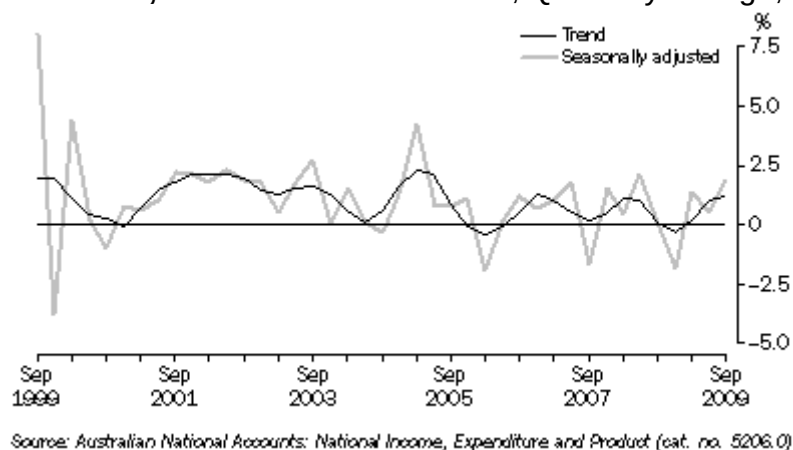
STATE ACCOUNTS

STATE ACCOUNTS

South Australia's September quarter 2009 State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$20,453m; an increase of 1.2% from the June quarter 2009. Australia's Domestic Final Demand grew 0.4% to \$308,258m over this period.

The only states and territories recording decreases for the quarter were the Northern Territory (down 2.9%), Queensland (down 0.5%) and Tasmania (down 0.4%).

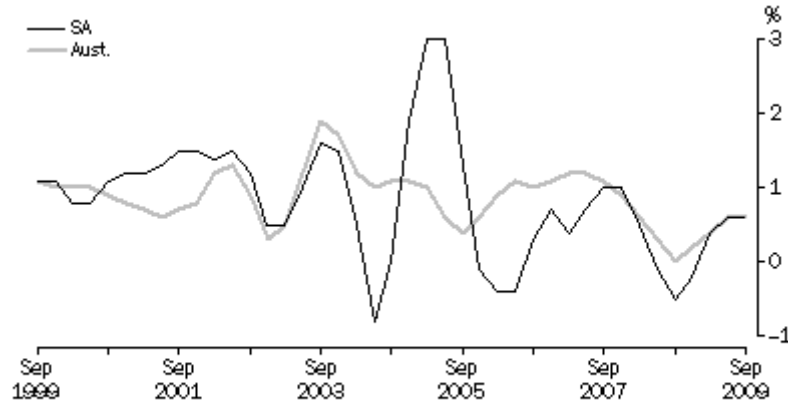
STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures, Quarterly change, South Australia



HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (HFCE)

In chain volume (trend) terms, South Australia's September quarter 2009 HFCE was \$11,824m (7.0% of the national total of \$168,082m). The value of HFCE for both South Australia and Australia increased by 0.6% between the June and September quarters 2009.

HFCE, Chain volume measures, Trend, Quarterly change

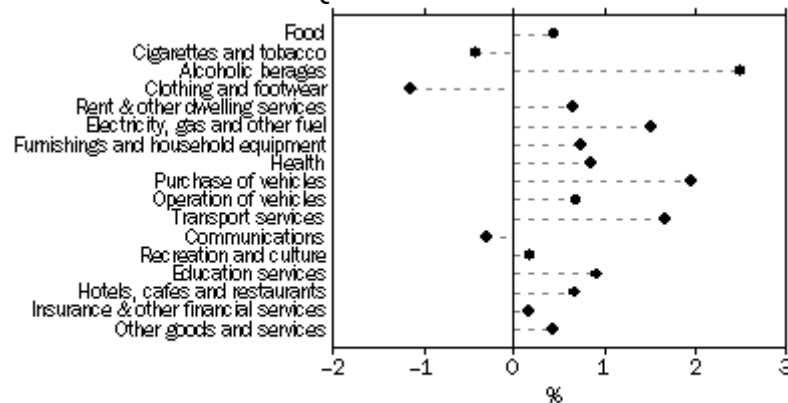


Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

The main contributors to growth in HFCE in South Australia for the September quarter 2009 were Alcoholic beverages (up 2.5% from the June quarter 2009), Purchase of vehicles (up 1.9%), and Transport services (up 1.7%). Expenditure decreased on Clothing and footwear (down 1.1%), Cigarettes and tobacco (down 0.4%) and Communications (down 0.3%).

At the national level, expenditure increases were reported for almost all categories. The largest increases were for Food (up 1.1% from the June quarter 2009), Alcoholic beverages, Health and Purchase of vehicles (all up 1.0%). Similar to movements in South Australia for the September quarter 2009, the only categories recording a decrease in expenditure were Clothing and footwear (down 0.4%), Cigarettes and tobacco (down 0.3%) and Communications (down 0.2%).

HFCE, Chain volume measures, Trend, Quarterly change - South Australia - September Quarter 2009



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

Consumption

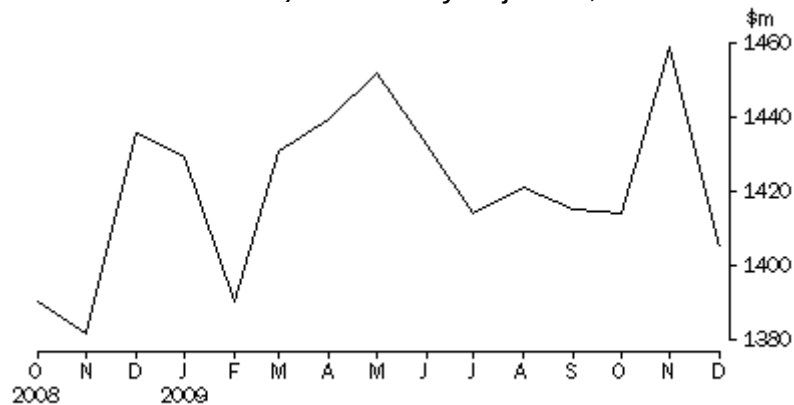


CONSUMPTION

RETAIL TRADE

After leading the nation in sales growth in November 2009, South Australia recorded the largest fall in sales in December, falling 3.7% to \$1,405.2m (in seasonally adjusted terms). Nationally, retail turnover fell 0.7% to \$19,925.3m in December 2009. South Australia's contribution to total retail turnover in Australia fell slightly to 7.1%.

RETAIL TURNOVER, Seasonally adjusted, South Australia

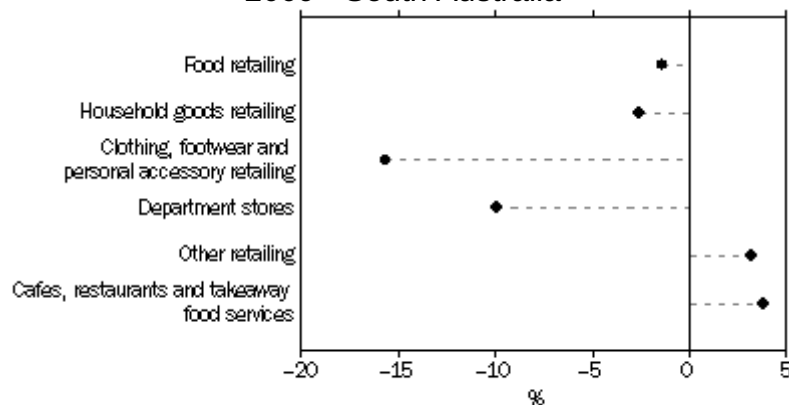


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

Comparing December 2009 with December 2008, the South Australian industry groups with the largest percentage decreases in retail turnover (in seasonally adjusted terms) were Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing, which fell 15.6% to \$75.9m, and Department stores, which fell 9.9% to \$117.9m.

Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services and Other retailing were the only South Australian industry groups to record an increase in turnover over this period, rising 3.8% and 3.2% respectively.

RETAIL TURNOVER, Seasonally adjusted, Change from December 2008 to December 2009 - South Australia

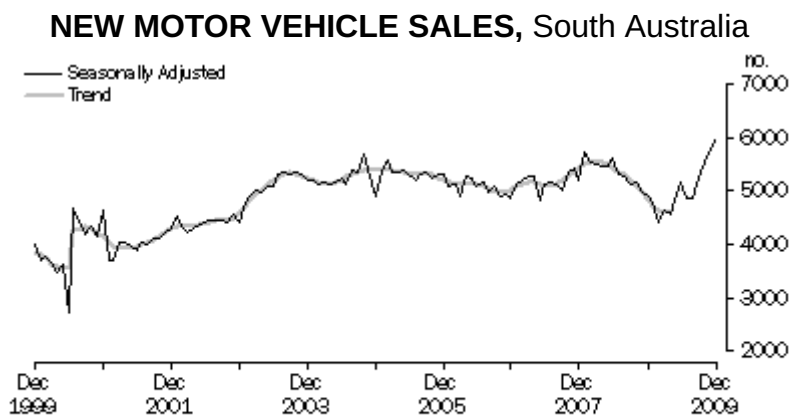


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

In December 2009, 3,330 new passenger vehicles and 6,013 new vehicles in total (in seasonally adjusted terms) were sold in South Australia.

In Australia, 46,770 new passenger vehicles and 89,741 new vehicles in total (in seasonally adjusted terms) were sold in December 2009.



(a) Trend series temporarily suspended from May 2009. See note below.

Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0)

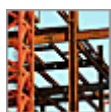
Note: Suspension of Trend Estimates

Following the Federal Government Budget in May 2009, the eligibility period for the Small Business and General Business Tax Break was extended to December 2009. The rebate level was also increased for small businesses, allowing eligible businesses to claim an increased tax deduction on the purchase of new motor vehicles.

The trend series attempts to measure the underlying behaviour in new motor vehicle sales. In the short term, this measurement may be significantly affected by unusual influences in the original and seasonally adjusted data, like those observed in May and June 2009. If the trend estimates in the publication were to be calculated without fully accounting for this irregular event, they would be likely to provide a misleading view of the underlying trend in new motor vehicle sales activity.

The new motor vehicle sales trend series has therefore been suspended from May 2009. The trend series will be reintroduced when more certainty emerges in the underlying behaviour of new car sales.

Investment



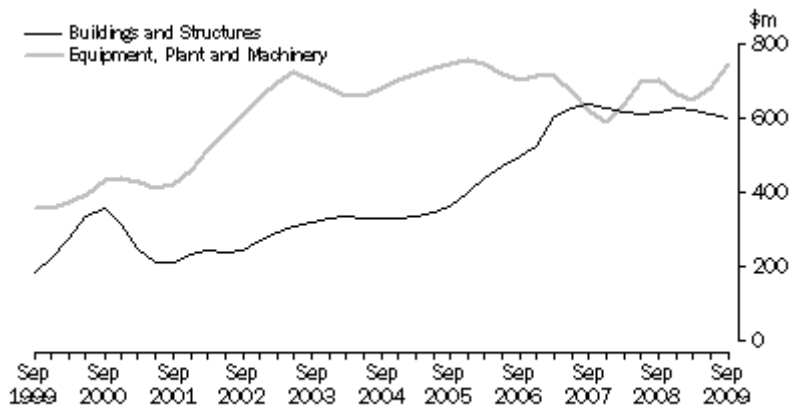
INVESTMENT

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Between the June and September quarters of 2009, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure rose by 4.4% to \$1,352m. Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery rose \$65m (9.6%) to \$750m, while expenditure on Buildings and structures fell \$8m (1.3%) to \$602m.

Over the same period, private new capital expenditure for Australia fell \$526m (1.9%) to \$26,717m. Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery and Buildings and structures fell 1.1% and 2.6% respectively.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, South Australia - Chain volume measures: Trend



Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (cat. no. 5625.0)

Note: Use of new classification

Commencing with the release of data for September quarter 2009, the frame information and sample design for the Survey of Private New Capital Expenditure have been improved by incorporation of the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), (cat. no. 1292.0), replacing the 1993 ANZSIC, the inclusion of non-employing businesses which contribute significantly to economic activity and integration of updated size variable information for each business on the frame.

These changes have resulted in statistical impacts on our previously published historic data series. This publication and other Survey of Private New Capital Expenditure outputs released on or after November 26, 2009, feature revised historic series which align past published estimates to the estimates including statistical changes introduced from this quarter. An information paper (cat. no. 5625.0.55.001) describing these changes in more detail is available at www.abs.gov.au.

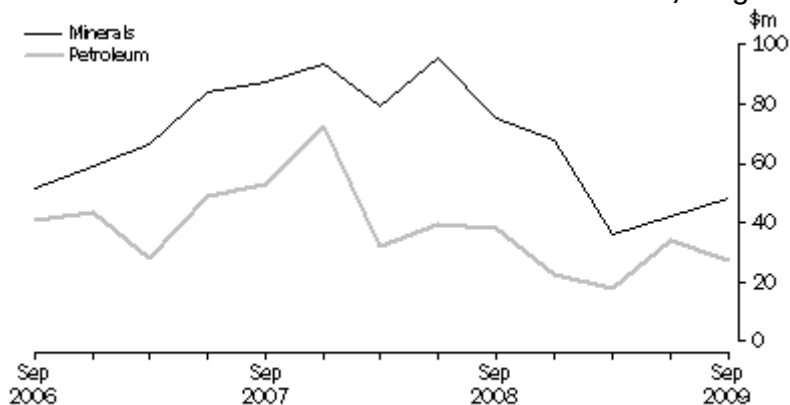
MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

The value of South Australian mineral exploration expenditure (in original terms) was \$48.2m in the September quarter 2009; an increase of 15.4% over the previous quarter but still 49.4% below the peak recorded in the June quarter 2008 (\$95.2m). Australian expenditure on mineral exploration was \$557.4m in the September quarter 2009; an increase of 15.3% from the June quarter estimate (\$483.5m).

Exploration expenditure on Uranium (\$25.2m) accounted for more than half (52.3%) of all South Australian mineral exploration expenditure in the September quarter 2009. A further \$8.5m and \$8.3m were spent on exploration for Copper and Gold, respectively.

Expenditure on petroleum exploration in South Australia in the September quarter 2009 was \$27.1m, down 20.6% from the previous quarter. Nationally, expenditure on petroleum exploration also declined markedly (21.6%) falling from \$1,017.4m to \$797.7m over the same period.

MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Original, South Australia



Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia (cat. no. 8412.0)

Construction



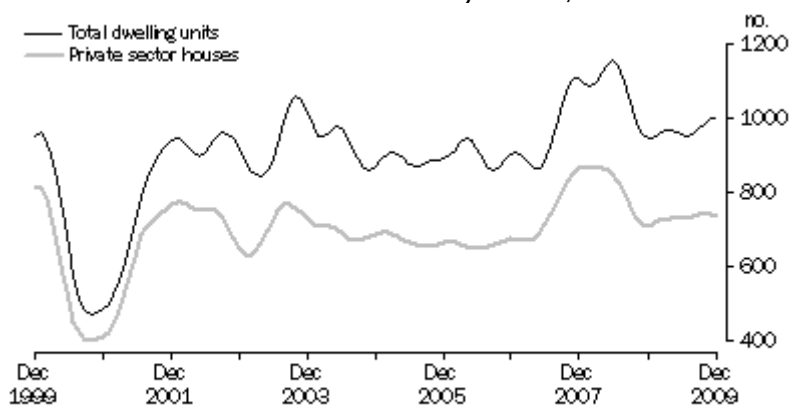
CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING APPROVALS

For the fifth consecutive month the number of dwelling units approved in South Australia (in trend terms) has increased with 1,002 approvals recorded in December 2009. Nationally, the total number of dwelling units approved (in trend terms) rose 3.1% to 14,594 continuing the upward movement that began in February 2009.

The trend estimate for the number of private sector houses approved in South Australia in December 2009 fell slightly to 736.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)

In 2009, the total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia fell 11.1% compared to the previous year. Decreases occurred across all statistical divisions with the Northern Statistical Division recording the largest decrease (32.3%).

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, by Statistical Division, Original, South Australia

	Year ended December 2008		Year ended December 2009	
	Dwelling units no.	Change over previous year %	Dwelling units no.	Change over previous year %
Adelaide	8 920	10.0	8 239	-7.6
Outer Adelaide	1 767	11.9	1 495	-15.4
Yorke and Lower North	592	9.0	488	-17.6
Murray Lands	512	-23.4	441	-13.9
South East	528	38.2	422	-20.1
Eyre	324	25.6	261	-19.4
Northern	508	8.8	344	-32.3
South Australia	13 151	9.5	11 690	-11.1

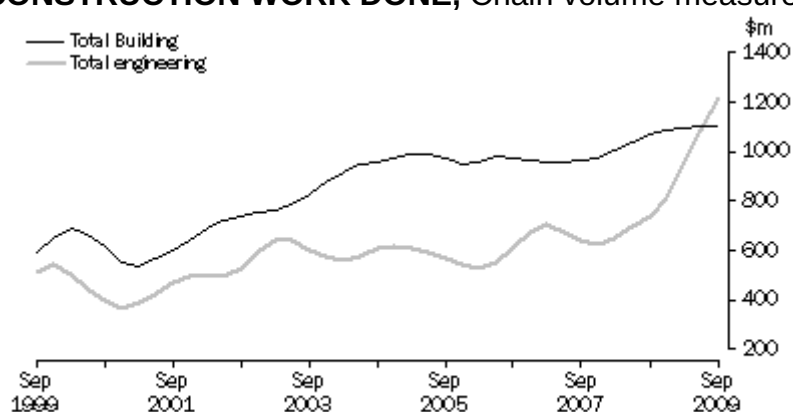
Source: Building Approvals, Australia - data available on request

[Map of South Australia's Statistical Divisions](#) (PDF 2.44MB)

CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE

In the September quarter 2009, the total value of building work done (in trend terms) in South Australia remained steady at \$1,101.7m. The trend estimate for the value of engineering work done in the September quarter 2009 was \$1,217.5m, an increase of 11.9% from the June quarter (\$1,087.6m). This is the seventh consecutive increase in this series with the September quarter estimate 93.3% higher than the value recorded in the December quarter 2007.

VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Chain volume measures - SA: Trend



Source: Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0), Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.1)

Price Indexes



PRICE INDEXES

CONTENTS

[Consumer price index](#)

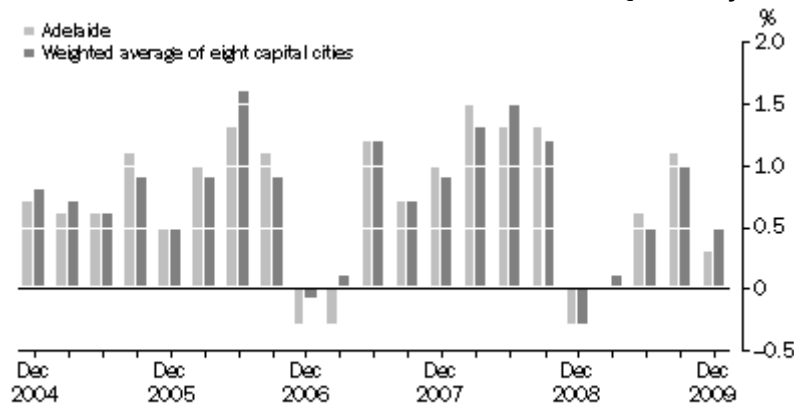
[Wage price index](#)

[House price index](#)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide rose 0.3% during the December quarter 2009, while the weighted average of the eight capital cities increased by 0.5% in the same period. Adelaide's CPI increased by 2.0% in the year ending December quarter 2009, compared with a 2.1% rise in the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

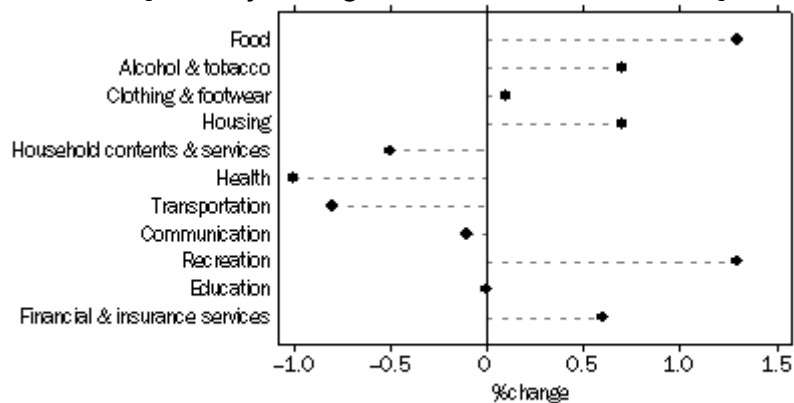
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS, Quarterly change



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

Adelaide's largest percentage increases in prices from the previous quarter were in the areas of Food (1.3%) and Recreation (1.3%). The largest decreases in prices from the previous quarter were for Health (1.0%) and Transportation (0.8%).

CPI GROUPS, Quarterly change, Adelaide - December Quarter 2009

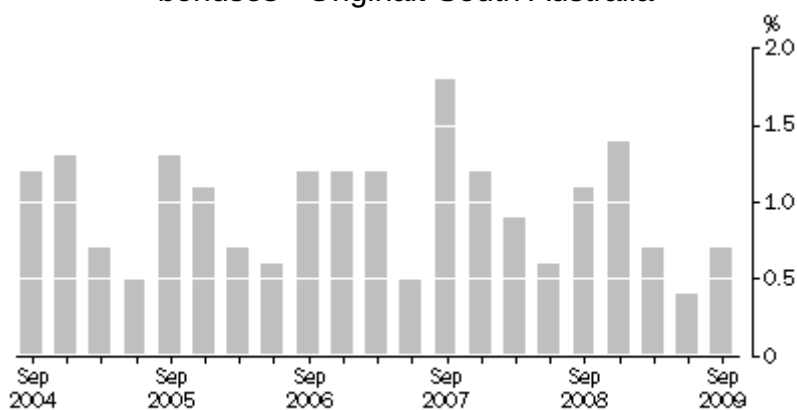


Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

WAGE PRICE INDEX

The wage price index for all employee jobs in South Australia increased by 0.7% (in original terms) between the June and September quarters 2009. This was less than the national increase of 0.9% over the same period.

WAGE PRICE INDEX QUARTERLY CHANGES, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses - Original: South Australia

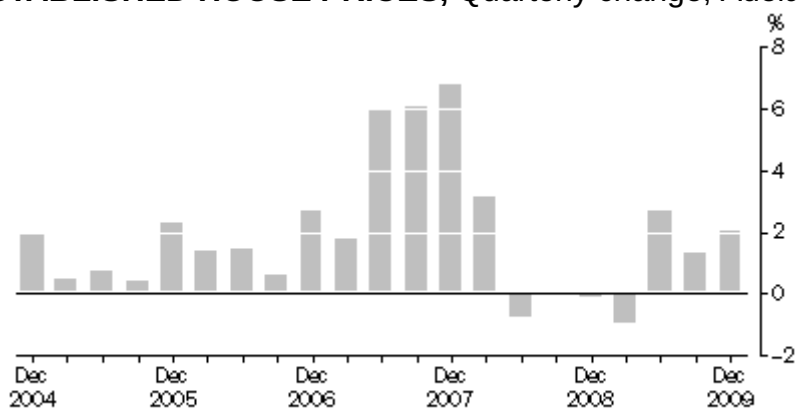


Source: Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)

HOUSE PRICE INDEX

Preliminary estimates show that, for the third consecutive quarter, the price index for established houses for Adelaide (in original terms) has increased with the December quarter 2009 2.1% higher than the previous quarter. Price rises were also recorded in all other capital cities between the September and December quarters 2009 resulting in an increase in the price index for the weighted average of the eight capital cities of 5.2% over this period. Adelaide (2.1%) and Canberra (3.6%) were the capitals with the smallest increases whilst Melbourne (6.8%) recorded the largest increase.

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES, Quarterly change, Adelaide



Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

Over the year to the December quarter 2009, preliminary estimates show the price index for established houses for Adelaide rose 5.1%, while the weighted average of the eight capital cities increased 13.6%. Melbourne (19.7%) and Darwin (13.6%) recorded the largest increases whilst Adelaide's increase of 5.1% was the lowest of all the capital cities.

Housing Finance

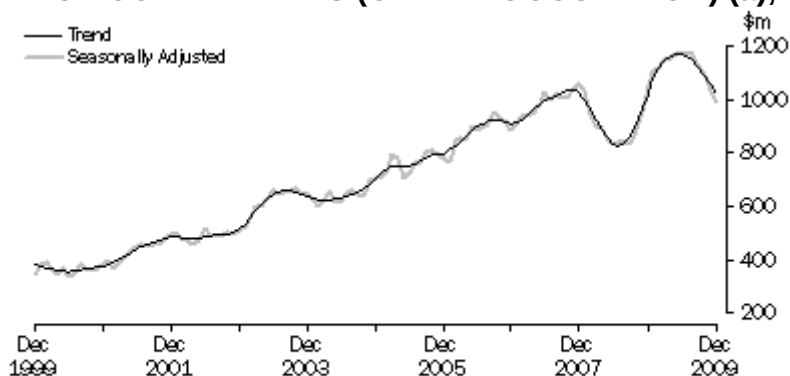


HOUSING FINANCE

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia in December 2009 was \$1,025m, a decrease of 2.9% from November 2009 (\$1,055m) and the sixth consecutive decrease since the peak of \$1,175m recorded in June 2009. As a result of these decreases, the December 2009 estimate has fallen back to the level of December 2008. Nationally, the value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation was \$16,157m in December 2009; 5.4% lower than the peak recorded in June 2009 (\$17,073m).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION) (a), South Australia



(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.
Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5509.0)

In December 2009, the average home loan size for owner occupied dwellings in South Australia was \$220,900; substantially lower than the average home loan size for Australia (\$283,000).

In December 2009, the average loan commitment for first home buyers in South Australia was \$242,500; an increase of 4.6% over the November estimate and 11.9% higher than the average loan size for non-first home buyers (\$216,800). The average loan commitment of first home buyers is now only 9.6% below the peak of March 2009 (\$268,300).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION) (a), Average loan size, Original, South Australia



For information on the house price index, please refer to the '[Price Indexes](#)' topic.

International Merchandise Trade



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

On a recorded trade basis, the value of South Australia's exports in December 2009 was \$673m; an increase of 2.5% over November 2009 (\$657m) but 24.3% lower than the value recorded in December 2008 (\$889m).

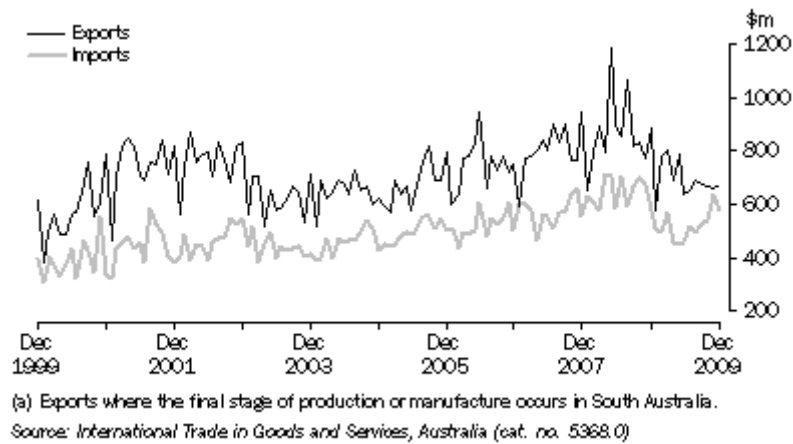
In December 2008, the export of motor vehicles (15.8%), wine (14.6%) and wheat (11.0%) accounted for approximately 40% of all South Australian exports. In December 2009 the export of wine (15.8%), meat (8.1%) and various metals including lead (6.4%), iron ore (6.2%) and copper (5.0%) were the most significant commodities exported. The contribution of wheat and motor vehicles had fallen to 4.1% and 1.5% respectively.

The value of Australian merchandise exports for December 2009 was \$16,323m; 21.7% lower than the corresponding month of the previous year (\$20,858m).

The value of South Australian merchandise imports fell 9.4% to \$581m in December 2009. In the last three months of 2009 the value of imports (\$1,762m) was 9.8% lower than the value recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous year (\$1,954m).

The value of Australian merchandise imports for December 2009 was \$17,662m; a slight increase (0.6%) over the previous month but 12.3% lower than the value recorded in December of the previous year (\$20,142m).

VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (a), on a recorded trade basis, South Australia



Water



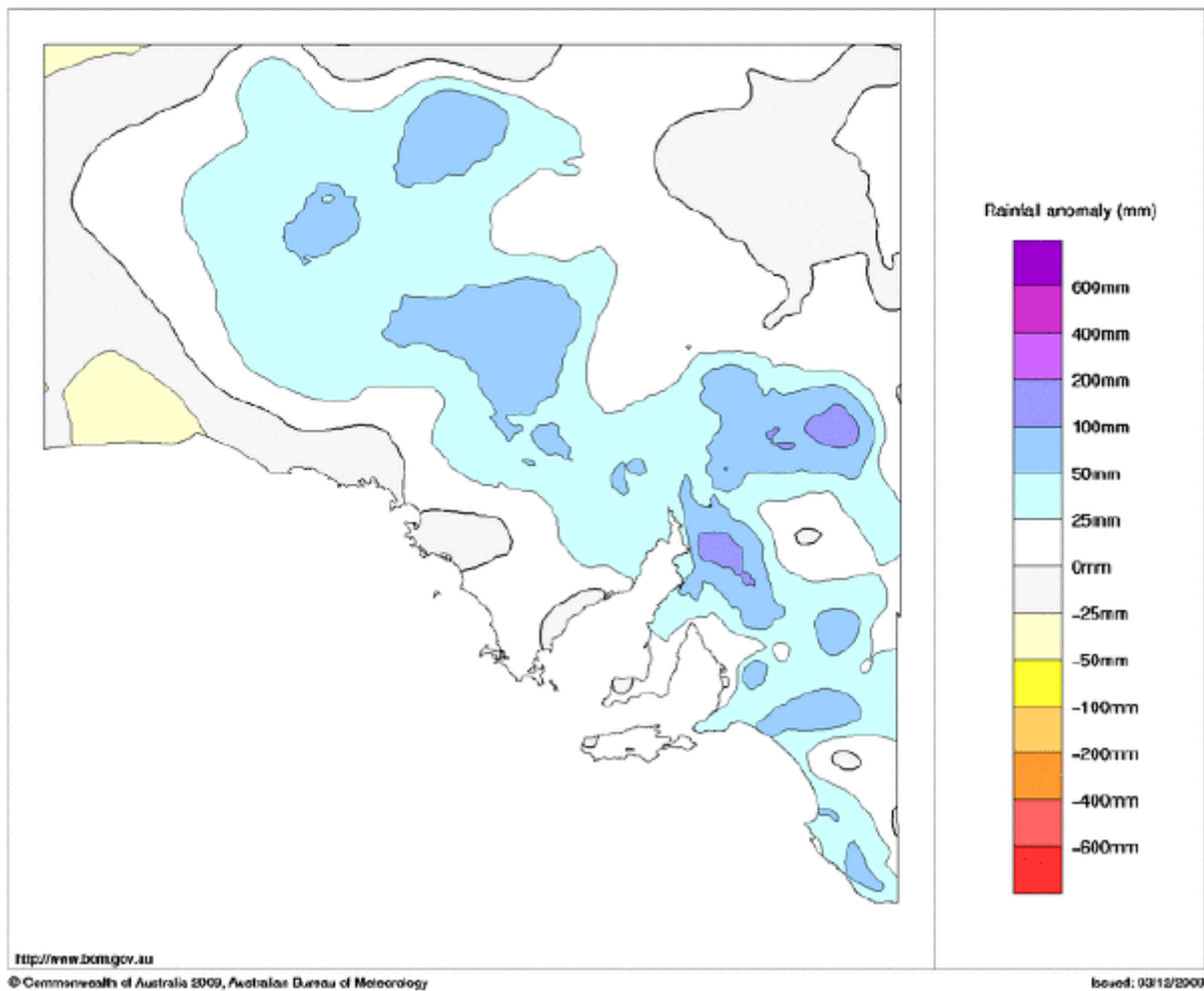
WATER

RAINFALL

According to the Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Climate Summary for South Australia, Spring 2009 was the wettest spring since 2005. When averaged across the South Australian agricultural areas as a whole, Spring 2009 has been the 25th driest since 1900.

Spring rainfall totals over South Australia were generally near average in the agricultural areas, tending above average across the pastoral areas. This was made up of generally above average rainfall in September, below average in October and generally well above average November rainfall after a dry first three weeks of the month.

Rainfall totals in the pastoral areas were very variable but generally ranging from 50 to 100mm. Erudina in the North East Pastoral district recorded 154.6mm as the highest reading in the pastoral districts. This was also the highest total spring rainfall recorded at this location since 1920. Totals in the agricultural areas were generally between 100 to 200mm, with totals widely exceeding 200mm about the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges, and several locations exceeding 300mm. Many of the western agricultural districts experienced totals in the 50 to 100mm range. Piccadilly in the Adelaide Hills recorded the highest rainfall total in the state this spring with 317.6mm.



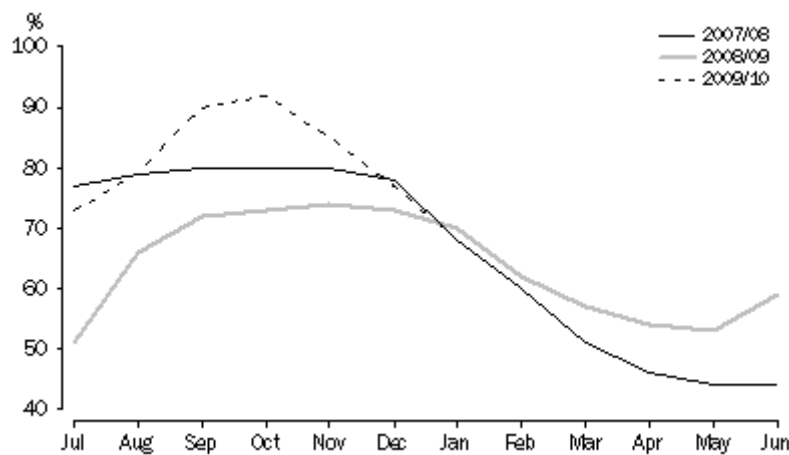
Source: 3-monthly rainfall anomalies for South Australia, Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

RESERVOIR LEVELS

The total water storage in Adelaide's reservoirs at the end of January 2010 was 68% of capacity; slightly lower than the level available in January 2009 (70%) but equal to that available in January 2008.

Following its completion at the end of 2009, the tap on the pipeline between the Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant and Adelaide's park lands was officially turned on in January 2010. The State government anticipates that recycled water accessed via the pipeline will replace billions of litres of drinking water previously used to irrigate the city's parks and gardens and reduce pressure on Adelaide's reservoirs and the River Murray.

TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE, As a percentage of capacity - Adelaide



Source: SA Water daily reservoir levels

About this Release

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian population and economy. The publication is updated on a monthly basis, with most releases also featuring an article that provides a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

The new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (Feature Article)

FEATURE ARTICLE: THE NEW AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD

INTRODUCTION

In 2011 the ABS will replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS will be used for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The current ASGC regions such as Census Collection Districts (CCDs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Statistical Divisions (SDs) will disappear to be replaced by the new Statistical Areas Levels 1 to 4.

Regions of the ASGS

The ASGS brings all the regions used by the ABS to output data under the one umbrella. They are divided into two broad categories:

1. ABS structures, those regions which are defined and maintained by the ABS.

2. Non-ABS structures, those regions defined and maintained by other organisations, but for which the ABS supplies data.

The ABS structures is a hierarchy of regions developed for the release of particular ABS statistics.

Mesh blocks are the smallest area geographical region. There are approximately 340,000 covering the whole of Australia with approximately 28,000 in South Australia. They broadly identify land use such as: residential, commercial, agriculture and parks etc. Residential and agricultural mesh blocks usually contain 30 to 60 households. Mesh blocks are the building block for all the larger regions of the ASGS. Only limited Census data, total population and dwelling counts will be released at the mesh block level.

Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s) will be the smallest region for which a wide range of Census data will be released. They will have an average population of about 400, somewhat smaller than the current CCDs. They will be built from whole mesh blocks and there will be approximately 55,000 covering the whole of Australia, with approximately 3,750 in South Australia.

Statistical Area Level 2s (SA2s) will have an average population of about 10,000, with a minimum population of 3,000 and a maximum of 25,000. The SA2s are the key regions of the ASGS, because they are the regions for which the majority of ABS sub-state intercensal data, for example Estimated Resident Population and Health and Vital Statistics, will be released. There will be about 170 SA2s in South Australia, built from whole SA1s.

Statistical Area Level 3s (SA3s) are a medium sized region with a population of 30,000 to 130,000. They represent the functional areas of regional cities and large urban transport and service hubs. They will be built from whole SA2s.

Statistical Area Level 4s (SA4s) will be used for the release of Labour Force Statistics and will be designed specifically as a geographical region suitable for their release. They will in turn be built from whole SA3s.

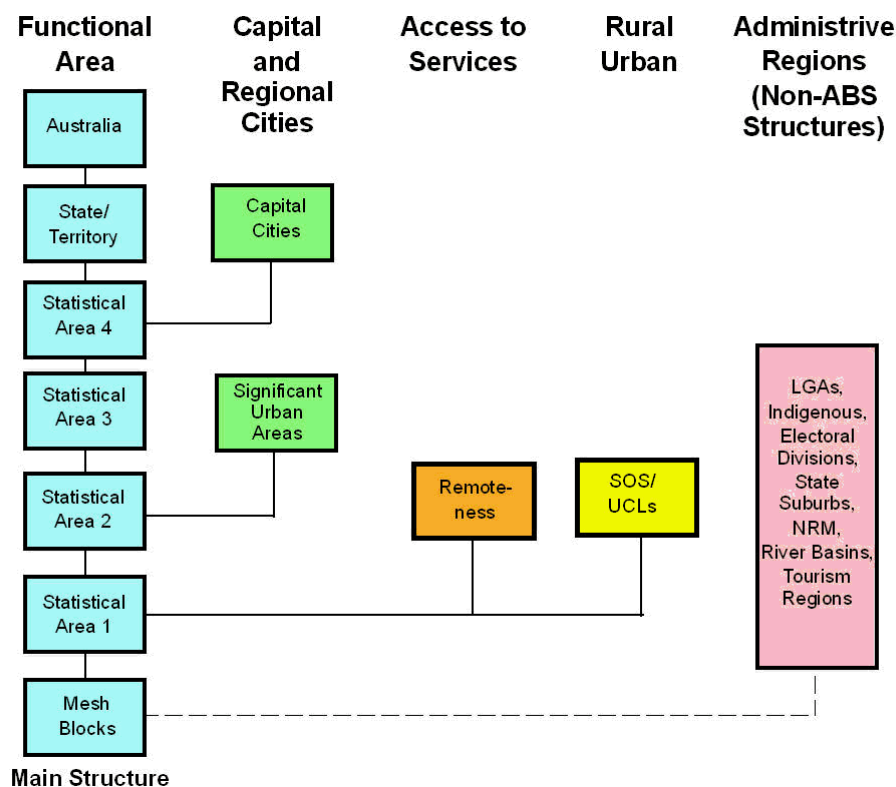
Capital Cities and Significant Urban Areas define the major cities and towns of Australia with a population over 10,000 people. They will contain the urban area itself and any likely growth in the next 15 years, plus any immediately associated semi-rural development.

The ABS will be releasing an information paper on the Capital Cities, SA3 and SA4 design in March 2010. This will be followed by a period of consultation with stakeholders.

Urban Centres/Localities, Section of State and Remoteness Areas will be broadly comparable to previous Censuses.

Non-ABS structures will be approximated or built directly from mesh blocks or SA1s. The Non-ABS structures include such important regions as: Local Government Areas (LGAs), postal areas, state gazetted suburbs and electoral divisions. LGAs remain part of the ASGS and the ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it currently provides.

The diagram below summarises the overall structure of the ASGS.



Release of the ASGS

The ABS will publish the ASGS manual with the boundaries, labels and codes for the SA units and Capital Cities in late 2010. The ASGS will come into effect on the 1 July 2011. The Non-ABS structures will be released at the time of the 2011 Census; this is to ensure that the Census is released on the most up to date boundaries available. Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, Remoteness and Significant Urban Areas will be released after the 2011 Census as they require an analysis of Census data to be developed. Data on SLAs will still be available for the 2011 Census, but for 2012 and beyond ABS data will only be released on the ASGS regions. The regions defined in the ABS structures will not change until the next Census in 2016, although the Non-ABS structures will be updated annually.

Contacts

If you have any questions regarding the ASGS please email geography@abs.gov.au.